pool under the Tea Board to sustain its domestic retail outlet operations and bulk supplies and allot authorised vends to economically weaker sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. As per the estimates of Tea Board, domestic consumption of tea is steadily increasing. Therefore, no special measures are envisaged to promote consumption of tea within the country;

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b).

Employees in FCI Units

1918. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in different FCI godowns all over the country on temporary basis;

(b) whether Government propose to regularise their services;

(c) if so, the norms prescribed for the purpose; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The number of workers/labour engaged in the FCI for handling foodgrains varies from day to day depending on the volume of work involved. Besides that, the Corporation has no control over the number of workers/ labourers engaged through mate/workers management committee, Cooperative Society and Contract systems. Exact number of workers/labourers engaged is, therefore, not available.

(b) to (d) It has dedided to refer the matter to Central Advisory Contract Labour Board for appointment of a Committee by the Ministry of Labour to go into the question of workload for abolition of contract labour in FCI depots on the whole and recommend norms for the same.

Decontrol of prices and Distribution of Coal

1919. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to dilute its control on prices and distribution of coal in respect of the emerging market scenario;

(b) if so, what is the role of coal linkage committee; and

(c) how many committees are working under the Ministry of Coal for allocation of coal to the bulk consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Based on the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Energy of the Parliament contained in its 25th Report dated 18.5.1995, the Ministry of Coal has set up a Committee to review the existing system of linkages and consider its relevance and the need for its continuance in the emerging market economy. The role of coal linkage committees will be examined in the light of the report of the committee.

With regard to dilution of control on prices a recommendation from the BICP to this effect is under examination.

(c) The following linkage Committees are working in the Ministry of Coal to consider coal linkages to bulk consumers;

(i) Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) for Power and Cement sectors.

(ii) Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) for Power sector.

(iii) Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) for Cement sector.

Elimination of Child Labour

1920. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour was hold recently in New Delhi to eleminate child labour in hazardous industries by the year 2000; whether any blue print drawn up for this purpose;

(b) whether special cells have been created in all the States;

(c) whether the above authority received any concrete proposals from State Governments for "Specific Projects" to eliminate child labour; if so, what action Government have taken so far; and

(d) whether any allocation of funds has been approved to eliminate child labour in hazardous industries (State-wise) and funds for received from I.L.O. during the last years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) The National Authority for Elimination of Child Labour (NAECL) in its special meeting held on 16th January, 1995 has adopted a plan of action titled "Identification, Release and Rahabilitation of Child Labour". This plan of action has already been forwarded to all the State Governments by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. This plan of action covers the range of actions required to tackle the child labour problem especially in hazardous occupations. Briefly, it calls for a convercence of services and schemes of the Central and State Governments at the implementing level-the District level to effectively handle the child labour elimination effort.

In addition to the above, the NAECL has also identified 100 districts which as per 1981 census data are located in 11 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Tamil, Nadu, Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat and West Bengal which together account for over 90% of the child labour population in the country. It has been decided that projects to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations will be started as per the National Child Project Scheme in these districts. A Workshop of these 100 District Collectors is to be held in New Delhi on 13-14th September, 1995. The concerned Collectors have been requested to prepare project proposals in their respective districts based on the National Child Labour Project Scheme.

(b) In the Regional Labour Ministers' Conferences held in September and October, 1994, the State Governments/UTs were advised to create special cells.

(c) Government of India has recently requested for detailed proposals as per the National Child Labour Project Scheme from twelve State Governments having high concentration of child labour in the country. Some State Governments like Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Tripura have already submitted proposals which are at different stages of consideration.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 34.40 crores has been made for the current year to undertake projects for children withdrawn from work. No State-wise break-up has been made.

India has been participating in an ILO programme called the "International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour" (IPEC). For the period from 1992 to 1995, there has been an allocation under this programme of US $ 3.65 million (Rs. 11.38 crores) for projects to be implemented in India.

Study Regarding Passing of Excise Duty Concessions by BICP

1921. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices (BICP) had been asked to undertake study as to whether the industries had passed on the excise concessions given in the 1995-96 budget to the people at large;

(b) if so, whether BICP have completed the study and submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of the industries which have not yet passed on the excise concessions to the people; and

(d) what action Government have taken/ propose to take against such industries?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) has been requested to conduct a study on some select items on sample basis to find out whether the industries have passed on to the consumers the benefits of tax concessions announced in the 1995-96 Budget.

(b) BICP has not yet submitted its findings.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.